

Medics Aid Iraqi Soldiers at the 'Alamo'

By Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin
10th Mtn. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP AL TAHREER, Baghdad -- A day at Forward Operations Base Hawk, nicknamed the "Alamo," is what moviegoers expect to see from a combat film. Character-developing dialog is cut short as Iraqi National Guardsmen and American Soldiers roll on and off the base ready for the next big mission. They even have a loveable pet, an Iraqi dog named "Clyde," for comic relief.

The only constant at the Alamo is that medics from 210th Forward Support Battalion are ready to treat soldiers from the 303rd Iraqi National Guard Battalion and their American support troops in the Commando Advisor Group from the 10th Mountain Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Commandos).

The medics would tell you the only constant at the Alamo is there are no constants.

"There is no such thing as a normal day over here," said Sgt. Michael Schwartz, 210th FSB. "One day we'll have seven patients, the next day we'll have none."

Just because they remain in the rear while ING and CAG Soldiers patrol the streets does not mean the medics don't see their share of action. The Alamo provides plenty of excitement, but it is not for the faint of heart, said 1st Lt. Erica Fiola, a



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Sgt. Robert Appel, Pfc. Brian McCourt, Pfc. Candon Boutin, 1st Lt. Erica Fiola and Pfc. Cody Nelson, 210th Forward Support Battalion, evacuate an injured Iraqi Nov. 20. Sand produced from the helicopter's propeller made visibility difficult for the medics.

physician's assistant with 210th FSB.

"We see it all out here," she said. "We love doing what we do."

"It's more intense, more real," said Pfc. Brian McCourt.

In their short tenure at the Alamo, 210th FSB medics have already treated mass casualties and called in several medical evacuations, mostly for ING troops.

On Nov. 20, they woke up in the early morning to several ING Soldiers seriously injured being brought in on stretchers. The medics quickly reacted and called in a helicopter to evacuate the injured. Fiola didn't even have time to put her boots on and helped carry the casualties to the helicopter.

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Bush Attends Navy's 42-13 Rout of Army

PHILADELPHIA (AP) -- All that was missing from the patriotic fervor of the traditional rivalry between Army and Navy was competition.

Aaron Polanco threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score, leading Navy to a 42-13 victory over Army on Saturday in the 105th meeting between the service academies.

"This is the game, the biggest game of the year for Navy, no question," Navy coach Paul Johnson said.

President Bush attended the game for the first time since 2001 at Veterans Stadium, taking part in the coin toss by flipping a commemorative coin sent from the Iraqi city of Fallujah.

Bowl-bound Navy (9-2) hadn't won nine games since Heisman Trophy winner

Roger Staubach quarterbacked the Midshipmen to a 9-1 record in 1963.

Navy has won five of the last six meetings to tie the overall series at 49-49-7. The Midshipmen have outscored Army 134-31 in the last three games.

Kyle Eckel had a career-high 179 yards rushing and a TD for Navy. Carlton Jones ran for 98 yards and Zac Dahman threw two TDs for Army (2-9).

"I wouldn't say we've won handily," Eckel said. "I got hit in the ribs and I'm still hurting."

One of the most storied rivalries in college sports, the game was even more significant this year because of the ongoing war in Iraq. A moment of silence was held before the game for all deployed military forces.

About one dozen parachuters descended onto the field, with one member from the Army's Golden Knights and another from the Navy's Leapfrogs delighting the sellout crowd of 67,882 at Lincoln Financial Field by landing at midfield.

Four fighter jets and seven helicopter gunships roared over the stadium just before Bush walked out to midfield for the coin toss. Earlier, Bush spoke to both teams in their locker rooms and later took a picture with both cheerleading squads.

"It's very disappointing," Army coach Bobby Ross said. "We didn't convert in critical down situations. Our effort was good. Defensively, we did some things well, but we had some breakdowns each

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Midshipmen Sail Past Black Knights

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half and the type of offense Navy has, it's going to hurt you."

After a scoreless first quarter, Navy found the end zone twice in the next four minutes.

Polanco's 10-yard TD run gave the Midshipmen a 7-0 lead. A 44-yard run by Eric Roberts gave Navy a first down at Army's 22. Two plays later, Polanco ran in for his 13th rushing TD this season.

After Army went three-and-out, Navy took over at its 47. One play after Polanco completed a 6-yarder to Jason Tomlinson on a fourth-and-5, Eckel burst up the middle for a 23-yard TD run to make it 14-0.

Josh Smith returned an interception 67 yards, giving Navy a 21-0 lead later in the second quarter. Dahman eluded a sack, started to scramble, stopped and tossed the ball into Smith's hands.

"I saw a guy behind me so I figured I better jump up and block it or he's going to get a lot of yards," Smith said.

After a 12-yard TD pass from Polanco to Mick Yokitis put Navy ahead 28-0, Dahman connected with Jeremy Trimble for a 6-yard TD pass to make it 28-7 in the final minute of the first half.

Polanco tossed a 9-yard TD pass to Roberts in the third quarter. Dahman threw an 8-yard TD pass to Aaron Alexander in the fourth. Lamar Owens capped the scoring with a 17-yard TD run.

"They blitzed a lot more in the red zone, but we got penalties and did some stupid stuff and we weren't able to overcome those mistakes," Jones said.

Despite finishing with a loss, Army took strides toward rebuilding its program in Ross' first season. The Black Knights snapped a 19-game losing



AP

Navy cornerback Kelley Vaughn, left, breaks up a fourth down end zone pass to Army receiver Aaron Alexander Saturday in Philadelphia.

streak and won consecutive games for the first time since 1997.

Last year, Army suffered the ignominy of being the first Division I-A team to finish 0-13, and it hasn't had a winning season since 1996. The Black Knights return next year to independent status after seven dreadful seasons in Conference USA. They are a woeful 6-41 over the last four seasons.

Meanwhile, Navy is heading to the Emerald Bowl in San Francisco on Dec. 30 after winning the Commander-In-Chief's trophy outright for the second consecutive year.

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210th Medics Treat U.S., Iraqi Soldiers

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in her slippers. Pfc. Jeremy Roberts said training, instincts and adrenaline got the medics through the day and, as a result, many ING troops will live to see another day.

"We woke up early in the morning," he said. "It was surreal, like it wasn't even happening."

Soldiers from 210th FSB also occasionally help Iraqis in the local community. On one occasion, Fiola and Soldiers from the CAG treated two children in the neighboring town of Ameriya. The brother and sister, refugees from Fallujah, received shrapnel wounds when a mortar round intended for the Alamo hit the town instead.

The children were unable to seek medical assistance from the local Iraqi hospital because it was too expensive.

Soldiers from the Commando Advisor Group lent their support to the children. Fiola stitched up the children and said they will make a full recovery.

"This is one way to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people," she said. "It helps build trust between us. The family was very nice to me and very helpful. All and all, it was a good experience."

Treating an American Soldier can be difficult when time is of the essence. Treating a patient who doesn't speak the same language adds another layer of difficulty to the situation, Schwartz said.

"We can't talk freely to them because of the language barrier," he said. "They can't tell us what is wrong, so we have to figure it out."

All the medics from 210th FSB said their experiences at the Alamo have been worthwhile. They take pride in treating Americans and Iraqis alike.

"There is nothing better than saving someone's life," said Pfc. Candon Boutin. "It doesn't matter if they're American, Australian or Iraqi. We're all on the same side."

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

How are you getting there?

kayf sa-taSil ilaa hunaa?

Monday
High: 57
Low: 34



Tuesday
High: 61
Low: 36



Wednesday
High: 59
Low: 37



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

You Could Sell Anything on eBay

HOBART, Ind. (AP) -- A woman's effort to assuage her 6-year-old son's fears of his grandfather's ghost by selling it on eBay has drawn more than 34 bids with a top offer of \$78. Mary Anderson said she placed her father's "ghost" on the auction site after her son, Collin, said he was afraid the ghost would return. Anderson also put her father's walking cane up for auction so she would have something to actually send the winning bidder. Anderson makes one request of the winner bidder: "I would ask you to write a letter after you've received the cane (and the ghost) to my son letting him know that he's there with you and you're getting along great."

Man Injured at Movies over 'Ssh'

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) -- A man was sentenced to six months in jail for assaulting a man who shushed him during a movie, leaving the victim with a punctured lung and broken ribs. According to Paul Elrod, 39, during his trial, he arrived late to a movie and told his wife that he had had trouble finding a parking space. Jamin Eisenbach, 51, turned and said, "Sshh," putting a finger to his mouth. After the movie, Eisenbach said Elrod kicked him in the chest and he fell down a few steps and hit a railing. He was hospitalized nine days. Elrod admitted during the trial he was upset over being shushed, but said he was only defending himself.

City Kicks off Holiday Festivities

KILLEEN, Texas (Killeen Daily Herald) -- The faces of about 400 spectators lit up Friday, along with the 50-foot silhouette tree, which has become synonymous with a Killeen Christmas.

The city kicked off its annual festivities when Santa Claus arrived by helicopter at the Killeen Community Center shortly after sunset.

Santa joined Mayor Maureen Jouett and Celebrate Killeen Committee

Chair Betty Lockhart in pulling the switch on the strings of light.

After the official start of the season, choirs sang, a small train toured the parking lot and Santa took orders from the children at the Holiday Under the Stars celebration.

"All you have to do is look at the kids' faces to see this is a success," Mayor Jouett said. "The kids are happy and that's all that mat-

ters."

Five-year-old Joey Baker was beside himself with excitement as he approached Santa to put in his holiday requests. His mother, Bobi, said this was the Kempner family's first visit to the annual celebration.

"It's pretty neat," she said.

Lockhart said the crowd continued to grow as the evening went on. Along with area choirs, Killeen Star Search finalist Spensha Baker performed for the crowd as well as Scot Cressman with the Power of Choice weightlifting team. The Celebrate Killeen Committee planned and sponsored the event.

Killeen resident Rebecca Natal said she has made it a habit to participate in city-sponsored events year round.

"Everything they do is awesome," said Natal, a native New Yorker. "We don't do things like this in New York. That's why I love living in Killeen. I think I get more excited than the kids."



Killeen Daily Herald

Santa waves from atop a Copperas Cove fire truck during the annual parade in downtown Killeen Saturday.

4th ID Soldiers Remembered in Historical Service

KILLEEN, Texas (Temple Daily Telegram) -- Nearly 3,000 soldiers and civilians overflowed the Christian House of Prayer Friday during a memorial service for seven 4th Infantry Division Soldiers killed early Monday when their helicopter went down.

Like eagles brought to earth by arrows from the quiver of a cruel archer, the seven died when their Black Hawk helicopter flying through heavy fog ran into guy wires supporting a broadcast tower near Bruceville-Eddy.

"On the day of the disaster, in one cruel moment all our lives turned to horror as we tried to make sense of what we heard," said Col. Donald MacWillie, commander, 4th Aviation Brigade.

The church, which seats 2,200, overflowed its capacity. Some 500-700 people filled the aisles and lobby.

According to Killeen City Council member Scott Cosper, nothing in Killeen's history has seen the magnitude of this service.

The Soldiers' tribute took center stage in front of the pulpit. A Kevlar helmet topped an M-16 rifle stabbed bayonet down next to a pair of shiny, black boots. Behind the tribute



Temple Daily Telegram

A Soldier pays her last respects to seven 4th Infantry Division Soldiers during a memorial service in Killeen Friday. The soldiers died in a Black Hawk helicopter crash on Monday.

hung seven color portraits of the deceased.

Beyond that, an array of six flags represented the nation, the Army, the 4th Infantry Division, the Division Support Command, the 4th Aviation Brigade and the assistant division commander.



By Staff Sgt. Susan German, 122nd MPAD

(Above) Football fans from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team stand at attention in the Camp Honor Dining Facility in central Baghdad as the national anthem is sung by the choir from the U.S. Naval Academy prior to the kick-off of the 105th annual Army-Navy game.

Football Game Unites Soldiers of 1st Cav. Div.

(Below) Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division enjoy snacks and drinks like buffalo chicken wings and near-beers while they watch the Army-Navy football game in the Pegasus chow hall at Camp Liberty, Dec. 4. The U.S. Naval Academy won the Commander's Cup Trophy with a convincing 42-13 over the cadets from West Point.



By Spc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

Longhorns Top Pirates Despite Poor Shooting

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) -- Freshman Daniel Gibson scored 15 points and No. 18 Texas overcame its worst shooting game of the season to beat Seton Hall 70-62 on Saturday.

The Longhorns (5-1) had made at least 10 3-pointers in every game and were hitting 50.4 percent from beyond the arc coming in. They were just 6-for-17 on 3s against Seton Hall (2-2).

Jason Klotz added 14 points for Texas, while Brad Buckman had 11 and Sydmill Harris 10.

Senior swingman Andre Sweet had a career-high 26 points for the Pirates, who opened the second half with a 12-2 run to get within 40-39 with 13:40 to play.

That was the first of seven times Seton Hall got within one point, but the Pirates were never able to tie or take the lead.

The last time they were within one was 53-52 on a jumper by J.R. Morris with 7:53 left.

Kenny Taylor and Harris each hit a 3 around a free throw by LaMarcus Aldridge as Texas took a 60-52 lead. Seton Hall did not get closer



AP

Texas forwards P.J. Tucker (2) and Brad Buckman (22) battle Seton Hall guard Donald Copeland for a rebound with during the second half Saturday. The Longhorns beat the Pirates 70-62.

than six points the rest of the way as the Pirates had just two field goals over the final 7 1/2 minutes.

Gibson and Harris each had two 3s for Texas, which entered the game 60-for-119 from beyond the arc.

Seton Hall, which entered the game shooting 47.8 percent from 3-point range, went just 3-for-23 against Texas.

Hours before the game

Texas declared freshman forward Mike Williams eligible. The 6-foot-7 high school All-America from Camden, Ala., missed the first five games while the school sorted out questions regarding his amateur status. A school panel decided met Thursday and he was declared eligible on Saturday morning. He was never ruled ineligible by the NCAA.

In Brief

Cruise, Spielberg Offered Hugs

NAUGATUCK, Conn. (AP) -- "Free hugs and haircuts for Tom Cruise & Steven Spielberg" read one sign outside Savior Hair as a few giggling hairdressers tried to lure the actor and director into the salon. Cruise and Spielberg were on set filming scenes at the Uniroyal Chemical plant for *War of the Worlds*, based on H.G. Wells' novel about an invasion from outer space. "If I find Tom, I want to bring him home with me. I'll say, 'You don't need a hotel! I have plenty of room,'" said Maria Furtado, a 56-year-old grandmother.



Sheryl Crow Put in Honorary Group

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) -- Rocker Sheryl Crow has been elected to the Missouri Academy of Squires, a ceremonial group dedicated to honoring current and former Missouri residents. Crow, who was born in Kennett and graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia, has won numerous Grammy awards and has contributed money for student scholarships and an aquatic center in Kennett. Gov. Bob Holden also announced that nine other people were elected to the academy, including Harris-Stowe State College President Henry Givens Jr., J.E. Dunn Construction CEO Terry Dunn, Kansas city community activist Lali Garcia and former Missouri Congressman Alan Wheat.